844
of generations, to the hermit Phra Khulilain, who first dis- 789
covered this magic. He got it from Phra In (Indra). He will
make it good."

Dŭan was sitting in the main part of the house. Her mother was seated behind her, arms under Dŭan's arms, pressing down on the abdomen with every pain. She, Song, and others had taken turns thus supporting Dŭan's back all afternoon. Dŭan hoped it would not be like the first time when she had screamed with the pain of the tender spot where they constantly pushed. Their toes, digging into her thigh, also had left large bruises. Some women in the area had tried arm ropes, hung from the ceiling, on which to pull, and some women tried lying flat, but sitting while someone pressed was the usual way. Sai examined Dŭan, and announced that labor was not very far along. She moved Dŭan around so she faced another direction. "No wonder you are having a hard time," she said. 844
"Your feet were pointing toward the săk phra phûm spirit house 789
and you were not properly in line with today's direction of the 823
celestial prince-snake (Thao Wăk). By turning you thus, the baby will be born with, and not against, the scales that lie on the nâk's back. The snake's direction differs each hour of the day, each day in the week, month, and season in the year. Today is Monday, so your head must be in the east, but Sundays, for instance, it must be to the north. You must also not face the Great Ghost (phî lûang).[33] Another being to respect is 844
the Thao Krung Phâ Li (cf. Textor:487-490). Offerings to him 789
must be at the feet or sides. If offered at the head, he would be angry at your disrespect, and you would have a fever and a terrible time. My grandfather taught me this from his Pali book. His was more accurate than the books in Thai one sees in the market."

Song was asked to boil up several kettles of water using 844
this săkăe wood. Husbands always did that. "I was recently asked," said Sai, "to help at a woman's fourth child. I had been there for all the other 3, and for every one her husband was absent, gambling, I heard. He said he did not want to stay there because it was an awful sight. So it is, but there must be a man around, the husband; if he is dead, or gone, then a father or brother. I refused to accept that case because of the husband's neglect."

The winds that circulated in Duan's body were not speeding

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33. Textor (378,n23) relates that it makes a complete circle of all directions throughout 24 hours, and its direction of the moment must be avoided.